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BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1960.





To: The Chairman & Members of the
Blackrod Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1960.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	2392.4
Population - Census 1951	3,151
Registrar - General's estimate of home population mid 1960	3,480
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1960 according to Rate Books.	1,178
Rateable Value £30,735. Sum represented by a penny rate... ..	£120

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population at mid 1960 3480

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate	50	28	22
	Illegitimate	2	1	1

Live birth - rate per 1,000 est. pop. -
Crude Rate - 14.9 adjusted Rate 14.3

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate	nil		
	Illegitimate	nil		

Still Birth - rate per 1,000 total births - nil.

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births ... Nil

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 38.5

Neo - natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births , 38.5

Early neo - natal mortality rate per 1,000 live
births 38.5

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births .. 38.5

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Tot al</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.			
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age			
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Deaths (All Forms)	29	22	51

<u>Causes of death during 1960</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	1
Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	3	3
Coronary disease - angina	5	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
Other heart disease	9	9
Other circulatory disease	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1
Accident	1	-
Suicide	1	-
Total ...	29	22

Transferable deaths are included in the above.

Infectious Disease.

Twenty five cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 17 of which were whooping cough, 3 Scarlet Fever and 3 Measles.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(National Insurance Act, 1948)

No application received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS

There is a practising Mid-Wife in the district, and a nurse from Westhoughton comes into Blackrod daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

For Infectious Diseases - by arrangement with the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest hospital on the list that can accept accommodation.

IMMUNISATION

The Clinic at the Methodist School, Blackrod, is open every Saturday morning. The doctor is in attendance on alternate Saturday mornings for the immunisation of children under school age, or over, if necessary. Children of school age are also immunised at the school.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Health Inspector who is also Surveyor. A visiting nurse is provided by the County.

GENERAL HEALTH

All through the year the general health throughout the district was good, and from the figures given it is quite obvious there were no serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease of any kind.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for the district are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY

The mortuary, situated at the cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

WATER SUPPLY

Source of Supply: The Urban District have their own water undertaking which consists of a Catchment Area of some 170 acres from which surface water and land springs is collected and stored in a 20 million gallon impounding reservoir. The Catchment Area is mainly moorland in character and is situated in the Horwich Urban District. The undertaking is adequate for the needs of the district and bulk supplies are taken by Adlington U.D. and the Wigan R.D.

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the year, and over the greater part of the year the reservoir has been full and overflowing.

16 samples of water have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination, 9 of these samples were taken from the supply mains, 8 of which satisfactory and 1 sample indicating low bacterial count. 5 samples were taken from the feeder streams and land springs 2 of these samples were satisfactory and 3 indicating bacterial pollution. 2 samples were taken from a shallow well at Brown Fold Farm, which is the only premises without a piped supply of water from the public main, 1 sample from the well was satisfactory and the remaining one was satisfactory.

All water is chlorinated as it enters into the supply mains chlorine gas being used, and the plant is automatic in operation, the dosage being regulated in relation to flow.

Tinned lead pipe is used as a precaution against plumbo solvent action on lead.

The total number of houses with a piped supply is:

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| a) Direct to houses | 1227 |
| b) Stand pipes. | Nil |
| c) From Private wells. | 1 |

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal

The sewage is treated at main outfalls, Nightingale Farm and Scot Lane. The treatment consists of primary settlement in retention tanks and final treatment by passing over the land on the broad irrigation system. The whole system is in need of reorganisation and the Council have received a report from their Consultants; Messrs. Charles J. Lomax & Sons, Civil Engineers of Manchester outlining their proposals to make the sewers and disposal arrangements satisfactory for the district. This report has been approved in principle by the Council and further details are now awaited to enable the scheme to be submitted to the River Board, the Lancashire County Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval to the scheme.

Food Inspections.

There are the following types of food premises in the district which are visited at frequent intervals:

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	21
Green Grocers and Fruiterers.....	2
Fish Mongers and those selling poultry, game etc.....	Nil
Meat Shops (Butchers and purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe).....	2
Bakers and confectioners.....	1
Fried Fish Shops.....	2
Shops selling sugar, confectionery, minerals, ice cream.....	2
Licensed premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and similar catering establishments.....	16

Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food Drugs Act, 1955.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Visits.</u>
Butchers (Manufacturers of Sausages)	2	8
Bakers (Manufacturers of Meat Pies)	Nil	Nil.

Carcasses inspected and condemned within the district:

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
No. Killed	-	49	-	154	8	-
No. Inspected	-	49	-	154	8	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
<u>and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole Carcasses Condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	50	-	41	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	-	61%	-	27%	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	-	3	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	-	6%	-	-	-	-
<u>Carcasses of which</u> some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

All unsound meat is forwarded to heat treatment plants for conversion to fertilizer.

On the 1st October, the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations (Appointed Day No. 2) Order, 1960 and the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations (Appointed Day No. 2) Order, 1960 came into operation and from this day the only slaughterhouse in the district ceased to be used. All carcass meat being slaughtered outside the district.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Inspections have been made to premises to which the regulations apply and given as required to persons employed in the shops.

Milk - Dairies Regulations.

33 samples of milk have been taken from producer retailer and submitted for analysis. 31 samples submitted were reported free from Tuberculosis and the remaining 2 samples the animal died three weeks after inoculation but at that time there was no evidence of tuberculosis infection. 31 of the samples also passed the methylene blue test and 2 samples failed.

Sanitary Inspections during the year.

Number of Premises visited.	164
Defects or nuisances discovered	23
Notices served (informal)	23
Notices served (Statutory)	5
Legal Proceedings.	Nil

Scavenging of Streets.

The Lancashire County Council are the Highway Authority for Class I and II roads and undertake the scavenging of the roads. Class III and district roads are maintained by the District Council and these are scavenged at frequent intervals.

Shops and Offices.

28 shops have been visited and 2 visits have been made to offices in connection with the Shops Act and Public Health Act provisions.

Public Cleansing.

At the end of the year there were in use 1237 moveable galvanised dust-bins. Dust bins for domestic refuse are supplied by the Council and the cost is a charge upon the General Rate.

Refuse is collected and disposed of by direct labour. One motor driver and 3 labourers are regularly employed in this work, and a weekly collection service is maintained over the year. A Carrier Bantam 8 cubic yard side loading refuse collecting vehicle is used for this work.

There are two disposal points for refuse at Scot Lane and Chorley Road. The Scot Lane site is a disused colliery and the refuse is used for filling one of the reservoirs and we are at the present time also filling one of the colliery shafts. The Chorley Road site is a disused colliery railway cutting which is being filled to the level of the surrounding ground, which when filled to the ground will enable the area to be added to the adjoining farm land.

No special arrangements are made for the collection and disposal of trade refuse, the industrial concerns have their own points of disposal which give no cause for complaints. At the present time paper or light metals are not separated from domestic refuse and these materials are tipped with the refuse. The few remaining pail closets are collected with the refuse and disposed of by admixture with house refuse.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises registered in the district in relation to an establishment where an offensive trade is carried on.

Schools.

There are 3 junior and 1 secondary school in the district, The sanitary accommodation is adequate at all the schools and facilities for hand washing are provided.

Bake Houses.

There are no bakehouses being used at the present time.

Factories & Workshops.

No. in district	14	Boot & Shoe Repairer	1
Carpet Manufacturers	1	Building Sites	6
Rayon Processing	1	Metal Broker	1
Joiner	1	Processing Peat Moss	1
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	2	No. of visits.	16

Rodent Control.

83 premises have been visited, 1 major infestation of rats and 2 minor infestations have been found on agricultural premises and treated.

Three minor infestations of mice have been satisfactorily treated in domestic property. Treatments are undertaken by a trained operator on the Council's staff. All sewers in the district have been treated at 6 monthly intervals and regular prebaiting is being undertaken on the Council's refuse tips.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

Two public sanitary conveniences are provided in the district and these are sited at two of the main road junctions. The conveniences provide a 2 stall urinal and 1 water closet for men and 1 water closet for women. Also incorporated in the building is a 'bus shelter'.

Closet Accommodation.

Privy Middens	Nil
No. of Fresh Water Closets	1417
No. of Waste Water Closets	Nil
No. of Refuse Bins.	1237
No. of premises at which moveable dust bins have been provided	1
No. of houses on water carriage system.	1220

Housing.

The district Council are at the present time constructing 54 dwellings which are for families living in unfit houses. 49 private houses have been constructed during the year and more private houses are being built.

4 unfit houses have been demolished.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of the District.

The rehousing of families living in unfit houses.

The improvement of the sewage disposal arrangements.

The provision of additional amenities in structurally sound houses by the addition of hot water supplies, baths, wash basins and food storage facilities.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dalton House,
WESTHOUGHTON.

